

SPRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS—COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

RECIPROCITY WITH HAWAII.

We are informed that the American planters and merchants of the Sandwich Islands, who are a large majority of the foreign population, desire annexation to the United States, and are ready to accept the burdens along with the privileges of such union; but they cannot just now realize this wish, because they are living under a constitutional king, and the independence of whose Government is guaranteed by great powers; therefore they propose and urge the next thing—a stepping-stone to annexation—reciprocity. They want to sell to us free of duty all their sugars and other products, and buy of us all their imports, so that we and they shall trade together like people of one land. This will Americanize the islands, and a thorough Americanization of the islands will secure our interests in the Pacific, so that we need not be in haste about the question of annexation. England is not backward to Angli-

But would it not be more consistent with our national honor and the highest policy to first strike a blow by way of retaliation, and hear the apology of Spain afterwards, if Spain should be disposed to apologize? There is, as was said, ample cause for such a course in the outrages perpetrated. Besides, no better opportunity could be desired to carry out American policy and the wishes of the American people with regard to Cuba and Cuban independence. Place England, France, or any other great power in the position of the United States, and see how soon a blow would be struck that would settle at once and forever Spanish insults, diplomatic palaver, the rule of Spain in Cuba, and the independence of the Cubans. To paraphrase Shakespeare's language, there is a tide in the affairs of nations which, if taken at the flood, leads on to national fortune. In the case of Cuba the tide is now at the flood. Let our Government comprehend this, and seize the opportunity. Timid old fogies who cannot see beyond their noses may foolishly talk about our obligations to Spain as a friendly power, and characterize any decided intervention of the United States as filibustering. But such an argument would be perille, narrow-minded, and show a want of comprehension of the principles that govern great nations. To preserve and perpetuate the principles of a system upon which a nation is founded, to surround a nation with all the bulwarks of national existence, and to promote its interests, expansion, and grandeur by every attainable means, are the objects pursued by all governments, and constitute their highest ambition. The term filibustering cannot be applied to a great nation. Nor are the friendly relations between countries permitted to interfere with questions of high policy and important national interest. No great power is deterred by such considerations. We need not go far back to history to show this.

The inference is irresistible that they don't want to. Honesty is not one of the principles of the party—it is never insisted on as a party measure. All these Republicans who make it a rule to vote with the Democrats for the most nefarious schemes, when their votes are paid for, do not lose standing in their party by it; they are just as "good Republicans" as ever—go to the party caucus without objection, make loud and unchallenged protests of devotion to the welfare of the party, and denounce with great vehemence every man who has doubts on negro suffrage, or hesitates to alter the Constitution whenever the interests of the party seem to require it. They stand high in the party, are men, and are influential. In branding as false to principle everybody who leads on to them for disgracing and degrading the party which tolerates and screens them.

friendly to the United States. Our laws would then, not less than now, compel the President to prevent our citizens from fitting out expeditions to aid either side. Our recognition would aid Cuba, only as an expression of our deliberate judgment that she had become strong enough to maintain her independence by her own resources. Such a judgment will be the mere acknowledgment of a fact, and the fact must exist before it can be recognized. The folly of Spain may, however, make us a party to this struggle. If Spain commits outrages upon our citizens, our Government will be compelled to resent and punish them. Next to the immediate reception of their minister, the thing which the Cubans have most set their hearts upon is the intervention of our Government to punish injuries to our citizens. Their hopes on this score are not without some foundation. It is well known that Secretary Fish, when he saw the late decree of the Captain-General of Cuba, informed the Spanish Minister that any attempt to apply such doctrines to American citizens would lead to grave complications—a diplomatic form of threat which the Spanish Minister could be at no loss to understand. Forthwith a fleet was ordered to the Gulf to protect our people from the rude hand of Spanish passion. In one sense, this prompt preventive action of Mr. Fish is adverse to the hopes of the Cubans; for if the spirited action of our Government should teach the Captain-General some sense and discretion, it may prevent that war between the United States and Spain which the Cubans so eagerly wish as assuring their independence. But if Spain disregards the warning—if she outrages our people, and refuses immediate reparation—their wrongs must be speedily avenged.

SHIPPING. LORILLARD'S STEAMSHIP LINE FOR NEW YORK. Sailing Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. REDUCTION OF RATES. Spring rates, commencing March 15. Sailing Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. On and after 15th of March freight by this line will be taken at 18 cents per 100 pounds, 4 cents per foot, or 1 cent per gallon, ship's option. Advance charges cashed at office on pier. Freight received at all times on covered wharf. JOHN P. ORLÉANS, 228 1/2 Pier 19 North Wharves, N. B. Extra rates on small packages iron, metals, etc.

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CLOSING UP THE WORK.

Congress has wisely devolved on the President the duty of providing for elections in the three States not yet reconstructed; and we are sure the work will be seasonably and fitly attended to. Let the crowd of office-seekers at Washington be allowed a few days more for final dispersion, and we shall then see proclamations addressed to the people of Virginia, Mississippi, and Texas, appointing a day of election in each, and prescribing the manner of voting on their pending constitutions respectively. No doubt, it will be rendered practicable in each to vote for reconstruction and against disfranchisement, so that thousands will vote to return to self-government and representation in Congress who would refuse to do so if they were obliged therein to vote for the disfranchisement even of their friends and neighbors.

Why did Prussia seize and incorporate the German States? Why does Russia push her conquests in Asia and Europe? Why does England subjugate India and every other part of the world she can lay her hands on? Why did France incorporate Savoy, and why does she plot to reach the boundary of the Rhine? Why was Poland conquered and divided by the surrounding great powers? Why, in fact, do all nations act in the same way? The answer is in every one's mind. The object with all is self-preservation, the perpetuation of their forms of government, and national expansion, and grandeur. This being the object, the monarchial governments of Europe, how much more ought the United States, for the promotion of liberty and in the interests of civilization and humanity, to extend the blessings of republican institutions over the American continent? To neglect any opportunity of doing this—and to neglect it in the case of Cuba now—would be the height of stupidity. Had we such a statesman as Bismarck or Napoleon at the helm of affairs, the insults of Spain, her atrocities in Cuba and her rule in America would not soon be ended. It is said Mr. Fish expressed fear of the consequences of a bold policy on the part of the United States with regard to Cuba. We blush to think any American could be found so weak, timid, short-sighted, and unpatriotic. Fear of whom? Of Spain? Why, if she were silly enough to think of going to war with the United States she has not the means; and if she had she would produce just about as much effect upon this country as the angry waves of a little lake upon the everlasting rocks. Fear of whom? Of England or France? There need not be the least apprehension of them. They know too well the power of the United States. They would not be so crazy as to interfere; they have enough to attend to in Europe, and will never venture on any Quixotic policy on this side the Atlantic again. We question if they would make a protest even in favor of Spain, and if they should it would be an empty one. Besides, these great commercial nations are learning the fact that the more the United States expands and grows the more will the commerce of the world be promoted and the greater will be their trade.

THE UNITED STATES AND CUBA. From the N. Y. World. The large number of Cubans who are arriving in this city, and the zeal and activity with which they are attempting to propagate sentiments favorable to Cuban independence, keep alive and enhance the interest which our people spontaneously feel in the pending struggle. These Cubans express dissatisfaction at what they consider the apathetic course of our Government, and great impatience at every expression in a public journal unfavorable to the immediate recognition of Cuban independence. Americans can easily understand this eagerness on the part of foreigners, who know little of the history and traditions of our Government and its customary manner of proceeding in similar cases. Our people have always taken the liveliest interest in every struggle for independence or for free institutions in any part of the world; but our Government, on every such occasion, has deemed it its duty to stand cautiously aloof and avoid committing itself by any premature steps. Everybody recoils at the great blaze of enthusiasm which broke out among our people in 1848, and which was so warmly represented by Hungary in its independence. But although he was wonderfully eloquent himself, and caused a great gush and outpouring of eloquence from our popular speakers, the wild enthusiasm of the numerous meetings they addressed did not move our Government to yield to Kosuth's importunities. After raising what "material aid" he could by private contributions, he stole out of the country in disguise and disgust. While our people have always given their sympathy, our Government has never given its aid, to revolutionary movements in their early stages. It would be instructive to examine, in this view, the public documents and papers which have most powerfully electrified the country by the boldness of their tone towards foreign governments. The ablest and most remarkable of the class is undoubtedly Mr. Webster's celebrated reply to the Chevalier Hulsemann. We will quote from that powerful and stirring letter some passages indicating its general spirit, and at the same time showing how steadily and firmly our Government has always discharged its duties of neutrality while asserting the right of our people to manifest their approving interest in revolutionary movements abroad.

It will be seen, therefore, that very important events are suspended on the discretion of a government which has thus far shown no discretion. A month or even a week may precipitate matters into such a condition as may suddenly snap the last remaining tie between Spain and the New World—a world which was discovered under her auspices, and of which she formerly possessed the greater part. In circumstances so critical and interesting, nothing can be clearer than the duty of our Government to bear itself with such prudence and continence that if we are forced into a quarrel with Spain—if, once begun, will make the whole world record with its consciousness—we may stand vindicated by a just and enlightened public opinion.

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What we want, then, is a broad and bold policy, with a view to the independence of Cuba. Our Secretary of State has gone so far in vindicating the honor of the American flag and in promising to protect American citizens. But that is not enough; that is not going far enough. We are not sure that he has the courage and wisdom to stick even to this position, and we cannot be at the trouble of driving him up to it always. He is not the man for the State Department at this crisis, when we have the Cuban question and the Alabama claims to settle. He is altogether too timid, too much of an old fog, and has not the least comprehension of the policy and destiny of this mighty republic. Mr. Sumner is the man for the time and occasion. His statesmanlike speech on the Alabama claims shows this, and we doubt not that he would be equally national, bold, and comprehensive with regard to Cuba. By the way, it has been said that these Alabama claims are a stumbling-block to the administration in acting upon the Cuban case. We do not see why. The hasty recognition of the belligerent rights of the Rebel States, an integral portion of this republic, by England, and the recognition of such rights, or the independence of Cuba, a distant dependency of Spain and our near neighbor, after more than six months of constant success by the Cubans, are not at all parallel cases, to say nothing of the well-established policy of the United States, under the Monroe doctrine, which was long ago announced to the whole world, and which now finds a proper application to Cuba. Let us have a statesman in the State Department who will take such broad views and carry out the sentiments and destiny of the republic; and we think Mr. Sumner is the man.

It would be instructive to examine, in this view, the public documents and papers which have most powerfully electrified the country by the boldness of their tone towards foreign governments. The ablest and most remarkable of the class is undoubtedly Mr. Webster's celebrated reply to the Chevalier Hulsemann. We will quote from that powerful and stirring letter some passages indicating its general spirit, and at the same time showing how steadily and firmly our Government has always discharged its duties of neutrality while asserting the right of our people to manifest their approving interest in revolutionary movements abroad.

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Party Responsibility. In face of their protestations of economy, the Assembly has just voted to buy a short canal somewhere in Chemung county, and to pay a half million of dollars for it, while everybody concedes that it is not worth five cents. It was zealously supported by that veteran reformer and model legislator, Father Truman, and as opposed, among others, by Mr. Husted, of Westchester, who, according to the Tribune reporter, "fought it bitterly." The same authority adds: "The latter gentleman remarked that whenever a big job voting money out of the treasury, the Democrats solely voted for it, and then threw the responsibility on the Republican majority by saying that if the latter wanted to stop this kind of spending they have the votes to do it. No day passes that the truth of this assertion is not proved."

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